THE WORKERS'

DREADNOUGHT

Socialism, Internationalism, Votes for All.

Vol. IV.—No. 35 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24th, 1917 Price One Penny

COERCION AND PROFITEERING IN AUSTRALIA

Australian freedom is going the way of all freedom in the belligerent countries. An Unlawful Associations Act was passed last year, and on July 20th George Hill, of the I.W.W., was sentenced to three months' imprisonment under it. Australia has its War Precautions Act, which appears to be a facsimile of the British D.O.R.A. Under this Act an Unlawful Assemblies Regulation was hurriedly devised to render it legal to arrest members of a deputation organised by the Australian Socialist Women's League, which desired to wait on the Prime Minister at the Federal Parliament to urge the Government to commandeer foodstuffs at a reasonable price and arrange to distribute them to the people.

On August 9th the deputation, headed by Miss Adela Pankhurst, was illegally refused admission to the House by the police. The women declared that they would come next day, whereupon the Regulation was hurriedly rushed through. It reads as follows:—

1. It shall not be lawful for any number of persons exceeding twenty to meet in the open air in any part of the proclaimed place for any unlawful purpose, or for the purpose or on the pretext of making known their grievances, or of discussing public affairs, or of considering of or presenting or preparing any petition, memorial, complaint, remonstrance, declaration or other address to his Majesty or to the Governor-General, or to both Houses or either House of the Parliament of the Commonwealth, or to any Minister or officer of the Commonwealth for the repeal or enactment of any law or for the alteration of matters of State.

Those who infringe this regulation may be fined £100 or imprisoned for six months.

Four thousand men and women assembled to see the deputation. The deputation of 1,000 women ranged itself on the steps. Miss A Pankhurst sent in a card for the Premier and attempted to address the crowd, urging them to remain till he appeared. She was arrested, and next day was fined £2. She and her colleagues returned to the Parliament House, and on the intervention of two members of the Legislature the Prime Minister agreed to receive the deputation, but, in doing so, refused to agree to its demands, saying: "the produce is the private property of private individuals, who sell it when they think the time opportune, in the same way that a working man makes his labour available at a certain price if the price is suitable."

On the following Thursday, August 23rd, the women again went to the Federal Parliament, and two men and two women were arrested. This is how the "Melbourne Socialist" describes the event:—

THE WOMEN'S WAR.

LATEST BULLETIN.

The war against food exploitation culminated in a great battle outside Parliament House on Thursday. A crowd of about seven or eight thousand met in the Treasury Gardens and marched on Parliament House.

Several arrests were made, and the Bench dealt out sentences next day to four prisoners—Mr. White, Mr. Worrell, Mrs. Wallace and Miss Pankhurst. The latter was sentenced to the extreme penalty of the law—one month without the option of a fine. Miss Pankhurst's friends lodged an appeal, and she was liberated on bail.

On Friday several thousands marched through the city, and hooted the House. Sergeant Barber accompanied them, but there were no arrests. On Monday ten thousand people met in the Exhibition Gardens and marched through the city. Sergeant Barber was in attendance, and made a great capture—"Mary Grant!" Rejoicing wildly, he took his prize to the watchhouse. It turned out to be a lady who "never even saw a procession," Mrs. Helen Anderson, though she was fined two pounds for walking in it.

A young man, whom the police thought to be a famous Press correspondent and reporter to the "Socialist," was arrested.

The politicians addressed the women on "How to live upon hay when bread is too dear for the common herd" at the Trades Hall on Tuesday, and Wednesday was set aside for a meeting in the Treasury Gardens.

Result of first phase of the war: Rabbits released, and butter coming out of stores.

The women, in the course of their trial and after-experiences, learnt that the new Australian Health Act is being very strangely worked, for, as is reported in the "Socialist," they saw two girls, aged eighteen and twenty years, sentenced to imprisonment *"because they were diseased."* These prisoners were afterwards packed closely together with others in the prison van, and at Pentridge Gaol it was found that no precautions were taken to prevent contagion by baths, sanitary conveniences, clothes, cups, spoons, etc.

Adela Pankhurst had been sentenced to a month's imprisonment without the option of a fine, but her friends lodged an appeal, and she was released pending the hearing.

The processions continued meanwhile. On August 27th, 28th and 29th marches were made round the city and past the Parliament House, the police making no counter-move; but on August 30th the police charged the procession, striking the people with their batons, and arrested several people, including, amongst others, Mrs. Jennie Baines, Miss Adela Pankhurst and Miss Alice Suter. Miss Pankhurst and Mrs. Baines were sentenced to three months' imprisonment for holding a meeting for certain unlawful purposes contrary to the War Precautions Act, and to a further six months, making nine months in all, for using the words:—

"We will persist in seeing Billy Hughes to ask what he will do to provide food for the starving women and children."

They were also ordered to pay £5 7s. 6d. each in costs. Miss Suter was sentenced to two and six months' imprisonment, eight months in all, and costs. (These facts we take from the "Melbourne Socialist.")

Of Special Interest this week

Votes for Women in New York State
The Yellow Peril

The Melbourne "Tribune," a Catholic newspaper, comments on these events as follows:—

"It is satisfactory to know that the vigorous agitation organised to force the Government to reduce the cost of the necessaries of life is beginning to bear fruit. In response to a cabled inquiry from the Commonwealth Government, the British Government has, we understand, agreed that some 5,000,000 rabbits held in Victorian cool stores on behalf of the Imperial authorities are to be placed on the markets. A large amount of other foodstuffs, such as meat, cheese, and butter, at present in cool stores will also be released. In this connection, it is rather significant that while returns of all exportable foodstuffs in cool stores have been secured by the Commonwealth Customs authorities, it was found impossible, under the present Commerce Act, to obtain returns of food for local consumption held in those stores. This practically means that, while under the provisions of the Act, the Government may secure returns of foodstuffs held in cool stores for export, it is powerless to compel returns from food exploiters, who, consequently, have a free hand to corner the necessaries of life. How far the strike may be responsible for this freeing of exportable foodstuffs it is unnecessary to go into at this juncture, but the fact remains that but for the magnanimity of the British Government in freeing, for the benefit of the Australian people, certain necessaries of life, for which they had already paid, we would have found ourselves at the tender mercies of a band of food exploiters. In the face of such revelations, is it any wonder we have food strikes.

VICTORY IN NEW YORK

Women have won the vote in New York State! That means the winning of votes for women throughout America. Congress will now probably pass the Constitutional Amendment which will grant nation-wide suffrage to the women without delay, but even should it hesitate to do so, the battle is won now that New York, the Empire State as it is called, has enfranchised the women by Referendum Vote! At a second try the man in the street has chosen the better part! How many times did the Legislature fail to do it? Evidently it is safest to trust the people, and Mr. Bernard Shaw is entirely mistaken in his contention that if the Referendum were in force legislation would come to a standstill. The American women have obtained complete adult suffrage, not a property vote at 30 years such as our present Bill doubtfully promises to British women.

This has been a strangely eventful year for American suffrage women. Last January, when the question of America's entry into the War was uppermost, it was thought bad form to press for votes for women. Then it was that the Congressional Union for Women's Suffrage decided to picket the President's residence with banners urging the President to grant nation-wide suffrage to women. Months passed: the pickets stood day after day unmolested; but when the Russian Mission visited America the banners were torn by angry sailors who did not like it to be known that their country had not granted freedom to its women. The police arrested the women. Their places were taken by others, and over sixty women have now served sentences of imprisonment, some of them for 60 days. On October 6th Congress rose, and eleven women were arrested, but two days later the court set them free: was it in anticipation of the New York State verdict? The women have been told that they were ruining their cause, but New York has justified them.

WORKERS' NATIONAL ADULT SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

On Sunday, November 18th, 1917, a Council meeting of the Workers' National Adult Suffrage movement was held in Chandos Hall.

The following resolutions were adopted:—

"This Council declares the present Government Franchise Bill to be unsatisfactory, and demands complete Adult Suffrage for all men and women with the abolition of plural voting and the pauper disqualification and the establishment of continuous registration.

"The Council further protests against the setting up of a Committee to formulate proposals to reform the House of Lords. It regards such schemes as expedients for giving an out of date and autocratic institution a new lease of life, and demands the abolition of the House of Lords. This Council therefore regrets the appointment of a Member of the Labour Party to serve as a member of the Committee to reform the House of Lords, as it holds that to do so is to strengthen the attempt to bolster up the House of Lords. This Council is opposed to a Second Chamber of any kind, whether elected by the House of Commons or otherwise."

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

"This Council declares that no system of election for Parliament and municipal bodies can be satisfactory which does not give opportunity to all parties to obtain representation in proportion to their voting strength, and urges the Government to include provision for Proportional Representation in the forthcoming Reform Bill."

INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL.

Resolutions were also carried in support of the Referendum, Initiative and Recall. The Initiative provides that on petition of a percentage of the electorate (say 10 per cent.), a Referendum Vote of the whole electorate may be taken to decide whether a measure shall be enacted or repealed, or whether any Minister of State shall be dismissed.

It was also urged that all elections should be held on one day, which should be a public holiday, and that returning officers' expenses should be paid out of monies provided by Parliament.

WINSTON CHURCHILL'S ADVICE TO WOMEN

A Women's Trade Union Advisory Committee or representatives of Munition Trade Unions employing women has been formed at the request of the Ministry of Munitions, and at its first meeting Mr. Winston Churchill has been expressing his view of what women need. He said that it "would not be in the interests of women to claim a rigid equality. That would end in their being very largely excluded from the industrial community. What they wanted was a comparative equality, an equality which made full allowance for the necessary differences of sex, strength, and requirements of physical well-being."

Before he leaves the Ministry of Munitions Mr. Churchill will undoubtedly learn more of women's wants and women's determination to get what they want!

* * * *

The Health of Munition Workers' Committee announces that the time is ripe for a reduction of munition workers' hours, but the committee can't make up its mind to declare any definite rule—indecision is a common failing!

* * * *

Our congratulations to the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's organisations which went on a deputation to the President of the Local Government Board to ask for the abolition of the Poor Law.

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

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WAR-WEARY

We are weary. We are filled with a weariness that descends into the very well-springs of hope by these perpetual discussions as to whether the War is well or ill managed. Of course, it is mismanaged; of course mistakes are made; of course atrocities, neglect and cruelty are rife; for the rock-bottom of the struggle is immoral, and good fruit cannot grow from an evil tree! We want the War ended; that is the only way to mend this grievous situation!

Futile and empty are the speeches of the Prime Minister and ex-Prime Minister, those two political rivals whose vision of the world is dimmed and distorted by their own desire for place and position, their desire for what Lord Morley has described, in relation to the Gladstones, as the "grand drama of fame, power, acclamation." In every utterance Mr. Lloyd George seems more grossly to indulge his love of bragging; his speeches grow fuller of bombast and of cheap jugglery: "I may know nothing of military strategy, but I do know something of political strategy. . . . I did it,—and it has done it!" So with the raising of a laugh he seeks to justify himself.

And what is it that he has done? With the instinct of the gamester he carefully arranges the toils about his feet that he can escape from them, if need be, leaving no trace. What has he done? He has created a Council which will do everything, but which—oh, do not be alarmed—is without power to do anything! He blames everyone for the past, and assures the public that all the military reverses were avoidable and the result of stupid blunders and jealousies, and now that he has exposed them the public can go to sleep again—all is well.

Mr. Asquith, timid and full of hesitations, meets his rival weakly: a question here, a minor criticism there; he has no policy, no strongly guiding principle; he is just a politician, skilful in Party management, so he has ever been swept along in the current of stronger personalities with definite personal aims. Politics is a career, a business like any other, in these days, and these two men are acting according to their lights in climbing up to power.

From the national point of view there is little to choose between them, each during his period of office has done what the great interests dictated.

A more skilful and powerful player calls the tune for them; the sinister influence of Lord Northcliffe has been dominant since War broke out. He (or those behind him, for he, too, is largely a mouthpiece) placed Mr. Lloyd George in power, and shortly will pull him down. Lord Northcliffe issues his commands with peremptory insolence; he demands that coercion shall be the order of the day, industrial conscription, disfranchisement of conscientious objectors and the suppression of every manifestation, either by speech or writing, which is opposed to his own. In his letter declining to accept control of the Air Service, he threatens the Government with American displeasure if his commands are not obeyed. The "New York Globe" and other United States newspapers have repudiated the opinions which he attributes to America. But Lord Northcliffe's threat that America will insist on taking control of the War, unless Pacifist publications are suppressed and other measures of coercion imposed, is merely a convenient vehicle of speech for intimating that he is not satisfied with the conduct of affairs, and will use his influence to depose this Government if it disobeys him. How far he will push his demands for the suppression of any publications which are opposed to his views we do not know; but since it appears that he is imbued with the idea that the Press can make the people think anything it pleases, it is even possible that, elated by his great successes, he may eventually aim at suppressing every newspaper the policy of which he does not control. That the Air Board was offered to him and that he undertook the American Mission may indicate that Lord Northcliffe is himself intending to take office shortly: to come down from the Olympian heights of his Press dictatorate, and become Prime Minister. If that be his intention, and, should be succeed in accomplishing it, his reign of power will be appreciably shortened. Destructive critics and wirepullers from behind are spared the consequences that fall upon those who accept responsibility. But we must always remember that Lord Northcliffe does not stand alone; he is the mouthpiece of vast and far-reaching interests.

The Government has obeyed the Northcliffe mandate. During last week, seven centres of Pacifist propaganda, or alleged centres of Pacifist propaganda, were raided; and the Home Secretary stated in Parliament that pamphlets and leaflets referring to the War are to be censored by the Government. On Tuesday, November 20th Mr. Bonar Law announced his intention to vote for the disfranchisement of conscientious objectors. On the same day Mr. Lloyd George, presiding over a Downing Street Conference between representatives of the British and United States Governments, announced that the "most drastic" food restrictions are about to be placed on the people of his country.

Yes: the people are to be narrowly rationed, gradually starved, to keep the War going, but the people have failed to secure the necessary corollary of compulsory rationing—the elimination of private profit in food. They have failed to secure that all may be sure of obtaining a share of what is going; they have failed to secure that poor people shall not be starved through the scarcity and high price of rationed foods, whilst the well-to-do can buy themselves out of famine by procuring high-priced unrationed commodities.

That reaction, which is the order of the day in Britain; is equally powerful in France is proved by the fact that the man who has been appointed Prime Minister is M. Clemenceau, a man chiefly known for his use of Government force against the workers and on behalf of the employers in industrial struggles. The Socialist and trade union organisations protest against his appointment, and the indignation aroused by it will undoubtedly strengthen the hands of the Internationalist-Socialists; but until the awakening is ocmplete the people will suffer grievously. The "Times" professes gladness that Clemenceau and Lloyd George will now be working together, but M. Clemenceau's feelings towards Mr. Lloyd George appear to be anything but cordial: he has written in "L'Homme Enchaîne":—

"When Mr. Lloyd George constitutes himself historian-in-Chief he has a fertile subject in criticism of himself as well as of us. To-day mistakes are staring those in the face whose eyes were obstinately closed when there was a chance of perceiving them. . . . My dear Lloyd George, you are quite right when you say that an instrument of command is indispensable, but on condition, don't you agree, that a man capable of commanding be appointed to the post?"

There is an indication here that there is to be a struggle for the supreme command of the Allied Armies, and, indeed, many French newspapers demand not that there should be one Advisory Military Council, but that there should be one military command, and that a French one, Britain being allowed supreme command on sea. The reason of this is not the mere desire to occupy the most glorious position in the eyes of all the Allies; it is because each Allied Government is fighting for its own special interests, and each desires that the general war strategy shall be shaped to forward its special aims of conquest. To the initiated, Lord Northcliffe's letter may also indicate that British politicians are expected to take a more dominant tone with the other Allies. Certainly the cry for more men to aid gallant France is in part prompted by the desire to keep French ambitions in check.

Nevertheless some Socialists in this and other Allied countries, are blaming the Bolsheviks of Russia for making a vigorous and heroic effort to end the War and to step out of the capitalist system which is the cause of all this misery. In spite of conflicting rumours of anarchy and disaster, the main burden of the news from Russia is hopeful, and the weight of evidence goes to show that Petrograd and Moscow adhere to the Bolsheviks, and that "perfect order is maintained." The Railwaymen's Union and Maxim Gorky's paper, the "Novaia Zizn," are reported to have endeavoured, and are probably still endeavouring, to secure a Socialist Coalition Government—there is no question, it seems, of going back to the old capitalist party days, for the Russian people are Socialists and cannot be led away from their ideal. Peace, too, is now inevitable; the people refuse to continue fighting. No Russian party now dares an attempt to gull the people by talk of "a vigorous prosecution of this War of freedom." Surely, for this result all Socialist pacifists should give the Bolsheviks unstinted praise.

Meanwhile, the Bolsheviks have at last given to the people of Russia something more than mere promises: "The Times" reports that the municipalities may now sequestrate houses and instal in them the homeless and the people who live in over-crowded and insanitary slums; that there is a moratorium for rent; that the land is now given to the peasants; that the factories are decreed the property of the workers in them. The mines, forests and waterways belong to the State, the flocks and herds to the Agrarian Committees; the elections for the long deferred Constituent Assembly are being prepared.

We hope that these are not mere decrees, but actual living facts. The difficulties of those who are thus courageously attempting to put into practice the teachings of Christ are enormous. They will make mistakes in the new life of adventure, but their mistakes will never be so hideously terrible as those of the old individualistic capitalist system.

Russia is struggling on to genuine freedom, but a greater danger looms ahead. Two weeks ago we called the attention of our readers to the Treaty which Japan and the United States have made concerning China. A mass of evidence from foreign newspapers supports our contention that all Chinese independence has now been ended and that China has become the vassal of Japan and the United States. Our oft-repeated warning that the Allied Governments were using the threat of a Japanese invasion to coerce the Russian Revolution into compliance with the treaties of the Tsar's regime is also, unfortunately borne out.

The "Gazette de Hollande" (pro-Ally) says:—

"So long as China remained a closed field, America neutral, and Russia powerful, Japan would not risk the equilibrium of forces in China being upset during her absence. . . . The risk diminished so soon as America concentrated her attention on Europe and China delivered herself entirely into the hands of her Allies. At the same time the means of compensation were increased by the elimination of Russia and the coincident opening up of all the far-Eastern questions. We do not know on what basis Baron Ishii reached an understanding with Wilson. But they can hardly have failed to find objects of exchange and compensation in the Pacific Ocean, in China, in the Far-East. . . . There is nothing which cannot be accomplished in Asia by a Coalition, including Japan, the U.S.A. and England, with China at their disposal, Germany eliminated and Russia put out of court."

This standpoint is echoed by American, Italian, French, Swiss and Japanese newspapers. It is plainly said that now Japan is assured of the concessions she desired in China, she will send troops to Russia. The Milan Conservative paper, the "Corriere della Sera and the "Gazette de Lausanne" and "Journal de Geneve" (Swiss pro-ally) say, that the British and the other European Governments at first hesitated to agree to Japanese troops coming to Europe, for fear Japan might obtain too much power there and refuse to withdraw her troops when requested. But this reluctance was overcome by the desire to conquer Germany and the conclusion of advantageous territorial agreements with Japan. The peoples of Britain, France and Italy, are blind to the madman's game their Governments are playing!

No one pretends that Russia is willing that Japanese troops should assist her Armies; yet *it was evidently decided to send Japanese troops to Russia before the Bolshevik Revolution.* Did this precipitate the outbreak? The "Avenire d'Italia" of September 15th, reports that the Allies had accepted Japan's offer of troops. The Californian "Los Angeles Times" was quoted in the "Christian Sience Monitor" of September 1st, as asserting that the Japanese Mission to the United Sates would offer between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 Japanese troops for Europe. The Japanese paper "Nichi-Nichi," of Tokio, says that Russian Conservatives Cadets and Socialists all regard the coming of Japanese troops as an indignity and a danger, and says:—

"It is the British and the French Armies which are asking for Japan's assistance for the Russian Army. Russia has never even asked for a Japanese reinforcement."

The "Christian Science Monitor," June 7th, said that if Russia were to make peace with Germany, Japan would take from Russia "the Siberian cities and a considerable portion west of the Pacific."

Yet some people still say that this is a war of systems; a war of the young democracies of the world, against the old corrupt autocracies; and Japan, with her two million voters and out of a population of sixty million, is to help to establish democracy by crushing the Russian revolution and dismembering Russia.

Suffragist women, some of whom may have joined in decrying the Bolsheviks, will be interested to notice that they have appointed Mrs. Kolontai an Under-Secretary of State.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

THE "DREADNOUGHT" SEIZURE

CORRESPONDENCE WITH HOME OFFICE.

Correspondence having failed to induce the Government to state why it had attacked the DREADNOUGHT, the Editor called at the Home Office, but failed to secure an answer. The following letter was received subsequently :—

The Home Office, Whitehall, 12th Nov., 1917.

Madam,—With reference to your call at this office on Saturday last, I am directed by the Secretary of State to say that his reply to Mr. Snowden's question on the 29th ultimo. with regard to the action taken by the police on the 4th ultimo. applies equally to the action taken by them on the 9th instant. It is the duty of those responsible for the issue of a publication to see that no offence is committed against the Defence of the Realm Regulations.—I am, Madam, your obedient servant, E. BLACKWELL (Signed).

To this we replied :

The Secretary of State, Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E., 19th Nov., 1917.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 12th instant, this, like your other letter of the 6th instant, fails to state what offence was committed against the Defence of the Realm Regulations. What are the words and what is the article complained of? It is usual when an offence is alleged to state its nature.—Faithfully yours, E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Home Office Misuses D.O.R.A.

Regulation 51 under the Defence of the Realm Act deals with the contemplated publication of matter. By this a Justice of the Peace has to be satisfied by information in writing that the publication is about to be made. He then issues a warrant, and the contemplated publication must be brought before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction. The owner of the publication would also have the right to appear. This procedure was not followed in the case of the DREADNOUGHT.

PEACE PICKETS

Members of the W.S.F. held a Peace Picket on Sunday, November 18th, outside Christchurch, Lancaster Gate. An old lady, coming out of church, reported the matter to the verger, who sent for a special constable and the women were taken to the police station. They were kept there for three-quarters of an hour and then released, but their banners were not returned. On November 21st the Picket again went to Parliament and the police snatched away the banners. As banners cost money, friends of peace 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E. Who will help the picket?

LORD RHONDDA'S PROPHECY

Lord Rhondda says that after the War we may before long see a Labour Government. We think so, too.

* * * *

Congratulations to Mr. Inkpin, the B.S.P. Secretary, on successfully withstanding the onslaught of Captain Anstey.

The Miracle and the Lord Mayor's Banquet

Dear Editor,—The age of miracles is not yet passed. The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand has been beaten; for the fragments that remained from the Lord Mayor's Banquet became transformed—the fragments of beef change into tongue, and jellies become pastry. The menu contained no tongue, no meat pies, no pastry, yet these were among the "fragments that remaineth." Did they issue a lying public menu for our benefit?

The "meagre diet," as the Lord Mayor termed it, consisted only of real turtle soup, filleted sole and thick piquant sauce, baked potatoes, casserole of partridge, two large barons of beef, ices, crêmes, jellies, and three well-known brands of champagne—this latter in spite of the example set by the prohibition of alcoholic liquor in the Royal Household. Such a meal, however, is only starvation diet, for the Lord Mayor in his letter of thanks to the committee which arranged the proceedings, referred to the banquet as "meagre diet, less and lighter than people would have had in their own homes." Now we know officially who are the food hogs. You people of the East End, who wait hours in the queues to buy such luxuries as filleted soles and partridges must really economise, else we shall never win the war!

I would like to add that the report that certain Duchesses have been confined to their rooms owing to chills contracted through waiting in tea and "butter" queues is entirely erroneous, for they were seen having their usual morning ride in Rotten Row.—Yours, etc., R. W. Fuller.

FOLLOW THE KING

According to the "Daily Telegraph" a loyal and general following "of the example set by the King and Queen in the matter of War-time luncheons" would probably do away with all suggestions of the necessity for compulsory rationing. Mrs. Atkins in our street will be happy to follow the royal example if her separation allowance is raised to meet the cost!

LORD NORTHCLIFFE C. O.

Lord Northcliffe is a conscientious objector to serving the present Government by taking charge of the new Air Ministry. He says: "I feel that . . . I can do better work if I maintain my independence and am not gagged by a loyalty that I do not feel towards the whole of your Administration." Lord Northcliffe desires to see others gagged, however, and a part of his grievance is that they are not gagged. He desires "short work" to be made of what he calls "sedition mongers," disfranchisement of C.O.s, the conscription of other men and women, and compulsory food rations. He mentions incidentally that the British Mission in America had 500 officials and 10,000 assistants. The numbers are startling! Think of the cost of it! But it is reported that the Government of U.S.A. employs 2,000,000 War Aims speakers!

* * * *

Two memorials on behalf of C.O.s have been presented by Lord Weardale to the Prime Minister and the War Office—apparent result nil, though some slight amelioration of their prison treatment is promised.

Many Sinn Fein prisoners are winning their way out of prison by the hunger strike!

JUDGE NEIL AT POPLAR

No one who heard Judge Neil's speech last Tuesday at Poplar Town Hall, can doubt that under the impulse of his powerful advocacy the slow moving government of England, and after England, of the other countries of Europe, will be forced to recognise the sacred rights of the mother and the child, before all the rights of property and all the blind conventions of to-day. In the United States of America, where only a few years ago, Henry Neil began his work, the cause is practically won. In 1899 the State of Illinois and nearly all the other States in the following few years passed the Industrial School Act, which authorised private corporations to accept the guardianship and care of children whose parents were too poor to take care of them. It authorised these private institutions to collect from the common tax fund about ten dollars per month, per child, while the children were under their care. These private institutions also collected by private contributions an amount equal to ten dollars per month per child or more. Being the legal guardian of these children they had the power to give the children out to people who were willing to adopt other people's children, and after the children were given out by adoption the real parent or parents, usually the mother, lost all right to, and knowledge of her children. The law made it a criminal offence to give the parents any information as to the whereabouts of the child. Another law enacted at the same time, known as our Juvenile Court Act, authorised the creation of Children's Courts, with power to take children away from the parent or parents when the child was not receiving proper care, and to turn it over to these institutions. Tens of thousands of fatherless children were taken away from mothers who were too poor to pay for the food, clothing and shelter of their own children under these two laws, during the twelve years following their enactment in 1899. These institutions grew at a tremendous rate. The City of New York last year paid over three and a half million dollars for the care of 22,000 children in the institutions in New York City. One could hardly ride from one large city to another without seeing on the hillside great buildings—containing from two hundred to two thousand of these dependent children.

Judge Neil told his Poplar audience how he came to work for Mothers' Pensions in order to restore the children back to their mothers. The judge who explained the law to him warned him of the opposition he would have to meet, saying: "The institutions are organised, they have thousands of jobs to give out—every five children sent to an institution creates one more job for some person other than the mother. The institutions have great contracts to give out for food, clothing and other supplies and they send experts lobbyists to every legislature with the result that they can get the taxpayers money for the care of children but the mothers can't." Judge Neil asked: "Does no one go to the Legislatures and represent the mothers?" The answer was: "No," so he said: "I'll do it." The result was that on July 1st, 1911, the first Mothers' Pension Law took effect in Illinois. Since then he travelled from State to State, from legislature to legislature, to represent the mothers and now thirty States out of the forty-eight, those with the largest populations, have the Mothers' Pension System.

Everyone should obtain from 400 Old Ford Road, E., a pamphlet explaining Mothers' Pensions, which is published by the W.S.F. Price 2d., by post 2½d.

JAMES LEAKEY.

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

November 13th.—In cases of soldiers executed by Courts-martial, Mr. King (L.) argued that the deaths might be put in the casualty lists and not communicated to the next of kin by brutal letters. Mr. Macpherson objected, protesting that the letters were "polite"!

C.O. MADE INSANE.

Mr. King (L.) cited the case of John Taylor, a C.O. at the Wakefield work centre, who recently attempted suicide and has now been certified as insane. This man had been forced into a combatant regiment and subjected to field punishment No. 1. Mr. King asked for an inquiry; but Sir G. Cave said that the man was insane and no inquiry was necessary! Commander Wedgwood asked the Home Office to "cease this prosecution and the manufacture of anarchists." It is more than this, it is barbarity.

* * * *

According to Mr. Macpherson, the charges made against Lieutenant Gilliland of ill-treatment in the prisoners of war camp in Philippopolis have been "recklessly and unjustly made." This seems as though the returned soldiers must be liars!

POTATO MUDDLE.

Mr. Clynes admitted that the new plan of underselling the Food Controller's fixed price of £6 per ton for potatoes will cost about £5,000,000. Will Controllers and Committees ever learn that cobbling is of no use? The machine of present-day life is past repair; patching only causes new breakages.

* * * *

The cost of the Albert Hall Economy Meeting has now increased to £3,798.

EXTENSION OF THE LIFE OF PARLIAMENT.

The life of Parliament has been extended for another eight months, that is until July, 1918!

WAR PENSIONS BILL.

The Committee stage of the Naval and Military War Pensions Bill was taken. Mr. Hodge's amenmdent that not less than two disabled soldiers are to be elected to the local War Pensions Committees was the only important amendment made.

WAR AIMS COMMITTEE.

It was proposed to "grant £1,000 to His Majesty, to defray the charge that will come in course of payment during the year ending March 31st, 1918, for the expenses of the National War Aims Committee." The objects of that Committee are briefly to hamper and undo the work of the pacifists. Mr. Outhwaite (L.) said it was for the purpose of "keeping this Government in office." Much criticism was directed towards the speakers and literature, the former, it seems, say a speech off, but refuse to answer questions as that is against instructions. The U.D.C. was the target for remarks suggestive of secret ways and means the people. "If the "pernicious" people, so often revulsion against a campaign which is run by the rich who at the same time have so little heart in the work that they throw the burden of the expenses on the Treasury, which means the country. If the "pernicious" people, so often referred to can run "unpopular" campaigns without public money, how much more reason is there for this particular one to be financed privately!

* * * *

November 14th.—Mr. Macpherson stated that Mr. Scott Duckers, C.O., "will be arrested if he does not perform his duties." Since this statement he is reported to be reprieved after spending nineteen months in prison!

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

From answers given to Mr. Anderson (Lab.) and Mr. J. H. Thomas (Lab.) by Mr. Fisher, it seems that the delay in establishing a Ministry of Health is the cause of a quarrel between his department and Trade Unions and Friendly Societies. Mr. Fisher is anxious to get a Bill through giving local authorities power to deal with maternity and infant welfare. The Friendly Societies and Trade Unions, according to Mr. Thomas, want a Ministry of Health established and regard the proposed Bill as a possible delay. We always like the right measure to be passed and think that an active Health Ministry would help the present situation. But whilst Mr. Fisher is quarrelling as to the right course, 52,000 children die every year!

* * * *

Mr. Trevelyan (L.) pointed out that Mr. Chandler, at Exeter, was sentenced on November 8th, to two months' imprisonment with hard labour for distributing Mr. Arnold Lupton's pamphlet, "What we are Fighting For." Mr. Lupton, the writer of the pamphlet, had merely been fined. Sir G. Cave knew nothing of the matter. Does this mean that the Home Office is not responsible for the petty persecution of pacifists?

WAR AIMS.

November 15th.—Replying to Mr. Lees Smith (L.) and Mr. Jowett, Lord R. Cecil stated that the restitution of Alsace-Lorraine to France was a "well understood war-aim from the moment we entered the war"! Strange that Belgium should have been so much boomed in recruiting speeches and no mention made of Alsace-Lorraine!!!

Lord R. Cecil further stated that Great Britain has promised "to defend and protect" the Portuguese Colonies against all enemies. Where will this fever of promising help end? Have the British soldiers been consulted about these rash promises?

PEACE PROPAGANDA.

Sir G. Cave announced that a New Regulation under the Defence of the Realm Acts is to be made to muzzle peace propaganda. It will require every leaflet relating to the present War or to the conclusion of peace to bear the names and addresses of the author and printer, and to be submitted to the Press Bureau for approval. The penalty for breach of this rule will be a heavy fine or imprisonment.

WASTE.

It costs the State £13,000 to pay officials to "manage" the C.O.s, and the gross amount of payments made at work centres from August, 1916, to October 31st, 1917, is £92,306 17s. 11d.

* * * *

Mr. O'Grady (Lab.) pointed out that under-age soldiers whose ages have been proved to be under eighteen are retained in the Army and only receive eightpence a day until they are eighteen. Mr. Forster knew nothing of this little plan to get still cheaper food for cannon!

FRANCHISE BILL.

The first day of the Report stage of the Representation of the People Bill was taken. On the clause dealing with the Local Government franchise of men, Colonel Gretton tried hard to get an amendment through which would place the vote on a property basis; but it was negatived. In the name of Mr. Hayes Fisher an amendment was made restricting the registration of persons to be registered as joint occupiers to two unless they are bona-fide engaged as partners carrying on business on the premises.

Mr. Chancellor endeavoured to extend the university vote to women who passed through Cambridge and Oxford University, Mr. Fisher promised to have that point considered "in another place." Mr. Acland moved that the wife of a Local Government elector should have a vote. He received support from all parts of the House, but Sir G. Cave objected, arguing that it would mean that women of 21 could then vote on local matters, this would add about five million women to the register. The question was finally left over until Tuesday, 21st for due consideration. As we have already affirmed, we want all women of twenty-one to have both Parliamentary and municipal votes.

AIR FORCE.

On November 14th and 15th the final stages of the Air Force Bill were discussed. It was decided in spite of protests from members that salaries of officials should be on the same basis as in other departments. Great unanimity was shown on the question of barring men from the Air Council who have contracting interests. Whereupon Major Baird, on the part of the Government, announced that for months past the Controller of Aeronautical Supplies and the Controller of Petrol Engines have been members of the Air Board and would, as a matter of course, be on the Air Council. Mr. Bonar Law protested against making this regulation because it would entail that the men concerned would lose "their business and work of their life." He did not recollect that millions are doing that, not for soft jobs with salaries of £5,000, but for terrible hardships and a private's miserable pittance. However, the Air Council may soon be run by those who may give orders to their own firms. Let us only hope that the use of defective machines will not be increased thereby! The Bill was passed.

COAL PRICES.

November 19th.—In the Isle of Wight coal costs from 63s. to 68s. per ton. Mr. Anderson (Lab.) stated that over 5,000 workers have gone on strike as a protest against this extortion.

NO HELP FOR SMALL FARMERS.

The potato subsidies are only to be paid to those who can supply in 4-ton lots. The small farmer or cottager who needs the subsidy more is left without Government help!

* * * *

Mr. Hogg (L.) made a plea for separation allowances to be paid to the mothers of the apprentices who joined the Army voluntarily. Those who joined under conscription have had their claims settled.

RAIDS ON LEAFLETS.

As a defence of the number of raids on pacifists' premises without any stated cause, Sir G. Cave protested that the number of leaflets which infringe the D.O.R.A. has increased. The various searches undertaken were to ascertain how many there were, which means that important work is being interfered with without any cause being stated.

SPIES.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald (Lab.) drew attention to the presence of two detectives from Scotland Yard beneath a grand piano at a meeting of the Southampton Trades Council. Sir G. Cave denied that detectives were present. We understand from other sources that these men would have had a bad time, had not the pacifists amongst the Trade Unionists protected them. But Sir G. Cave says they were not there, therefore our information is fiction!!!

JUSTICE.

Mr. Hodge moved that there shall be elected to the Local Pensions Committee "a woman who is in receipt of a pension as a widow or other dependant of a man in the said naval or military service who has died from causes arising out of his service during the present War." We welcome this act of justice.

Give this paper to a friend.

WHATS' ON?
W.S.F. FIXTURES
OUTDOOR

GREAT PUSH FOR PEACE! SOCIALISM! VOTES FOR ALL!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24th.

Bethnal Green District: Meet at 11.30 a.m. and at 2.30 p.m., at 400 Old Ford Road (No. 8 bus from Liverpool Street or Bank). Meetings at 12 (noon) and at 3 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Lynch, Mrs. Walker, Mr. H. G. Russell.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25th.

Osborn St., Whitechapel, 11.45 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

Salmon and Ball, 12 (noon), Ex-Inspector Syme. Chair: Mrs. Eglinton.

The Grove, Hammersmith, 3 p.m., Mr. L. Hogben, Mrs. Birch.

The Flagstaff, Hampstead, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walker.

INDOOR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28th.

Kensal Rise, 7 p.m., Mrs. Walker.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29th.

Minerva Café, Bury Street, W.C., 3.30 p.m., Mr. Miles Malleson will give a Reading from his own works. Chair; Miss Smyth.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Kingsley Hall, Bow, Sunday 25th, at 8.15 p.m., Mr. Pethick Lawrence will speak on "The Greatness of England."

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27th.

Walthamstow League of Rights.

William Morris Hall, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Sizer and others.

COERCION IN LONDON

The attacks on the freedom of the Press which the Government has made at the instance of the most blatant jingoes choosing the "Dreadnought" four times as its victim, "The Tribunal" once and "The Nation" once are paralleled by attacks on the freedom of public meetings which have been carried out by the police in the more subterranean manner of warning the proprietors of halls that disturbances may be expected. The stoppage of the Keir Hardie Memorial meeting in the Memorial Hall displayed a shamefully vindictive hatred, the stoppage of the National Guilds' lectures which were to be held on matters not concerned with the war was also another peculiarly flagrant example. We are glad to learn that the lectures are to be held in the Kingsway Hall on November 20th, December 4th and 18th, and January 8th. We hope that Socialists will see to it that these meetings are not interfered with. They can ensure this if they care to.

OUR FUNDS

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss H. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3. All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—W. J. Woods, Esq (monthly), £2; Irene, per Mrs. Drake (weekly), £1; A. Gliksten, Esq., £1; Miss L. Cutten (monthly), 5s.; A. Friend in Merthyr, per Mrs. Bouvier, 2s. 6d. COLLECTIONS: Mrs. Walker, £1 18s. 6d.; Osborn Street, 3s. 3½d.; Bow Women's Hall, 3s.

PEACE CAMPAIGN.—Miss M. Stapleton, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Brimley, 2s. "OLD COCKNEY FAIR": Mrs. D. Empson, £1; Robson Paige, Esq., £1; Miss Edith A. Irons, 5s.; Mrs. M. Halley, 5s.; Mr. A. F. Rayment, 3s.; Mrs. Manning Prentice, 2s. 6d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—A. Gliksten, Esq., £9; Mr. D. M. Stevenson, £1; J. Leakey, Esq., £1; St. Pancras Friends (weekly), 5s.; Mr. R. Goodman, 5s.; Miss L. Bent, 5s.; Mrs. Robinson (card), 5s.; Anon, per Miss Pankhurst, 5s.; Miss J. Mardon, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Richmond (fortnightly), 2s.; Miss Casey (card), 1s. 3d.

"DREADNOUGHT" GUARANTEE FUND.—Previously acknowledged (weekly), £2 15s.; Miss Flora Robertson (monthly), 2s. 6d.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Robson Paige, Esq., £4; T. H. Wilson, £2 2s.; Miss Craies, £1 1s.; Mrs. D. Empson, £1; Anon, per Miss Evans, £1; Mrs. Phyllis Bell, 10s.; Nurse Hebbes (weekly), 10s.; Mrs. Richmond (fortnightly), 10s.; Bulwell Adult School, 5s.; J. M. Morgan, 5s.; Miss J. T. Drewry (monthly), 5s.; Anon, 4s.; Miss E. Crabb (monthly), 3s. 6d.; Mrs. Turner, 2s. 6d.; Anon, per Miss A. M. Fyson, 2s. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Toolroom, £1 10s. 11½d.; Misses E. Lagsding and T. Watts (Green's Yard), 10s. 10½d.; Miss K. Lagsding and Mrs. Bertram (Cubitt Town), 4s.

CLOTHES.—Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Gibson. TOWELS: Miss Spencer. FLOWERS: Mrs. Chaub Hall. APPLES: Mrs. Napier.

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DUBLIN HARDSHIP

News reaches us from Dublin that 300 women have been thrown out of work owing to the Printers' Strike. Their wages are 10s. and 11s. for a 51-hour week. It seems inconceivable to us that they, too, have not joined with the strikers, for who can live now on such starvation wages? We hope funds will be forthcoming to alleviate their present distress, these should be addressed to Miss Kelly, 18 Dame Street, Dublin, Ireland.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d. —Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

SUFFRAGE WORKERS should spend their holidays at "Sea View," Victoria Road, Brighton. Hostess, Miss Turner.

FURNISHED BED-SITTING ROOM with attendance; 5s. a week; Central London.—Apply, Box 400.

TO LET—HALL for meetings, etc., holds 60. Terms moderate.—Apply Miss Beamsih, St. Stephen's Shop, 85 Hoxton Street, N.

TYPEWRITING REQUIRED at home; MSS. and Plays; Duplicating accurately done. Terms on application.—Apply Miss A. O. Beamish, 85 Hoxton Street.

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Toys—Mrs. Herebergova.

Curios & Jewellery—Mrs. Casey.

Children's Garments—The Mothers' Arms helpers.

New Garments—Poplar Branch.

Second-hand Garments—Mrs. Payne.

Books, New and Second-hand—Miss Macdonald.

Fancy Goods—

Novelty Stall—Miss Di Benningfield.

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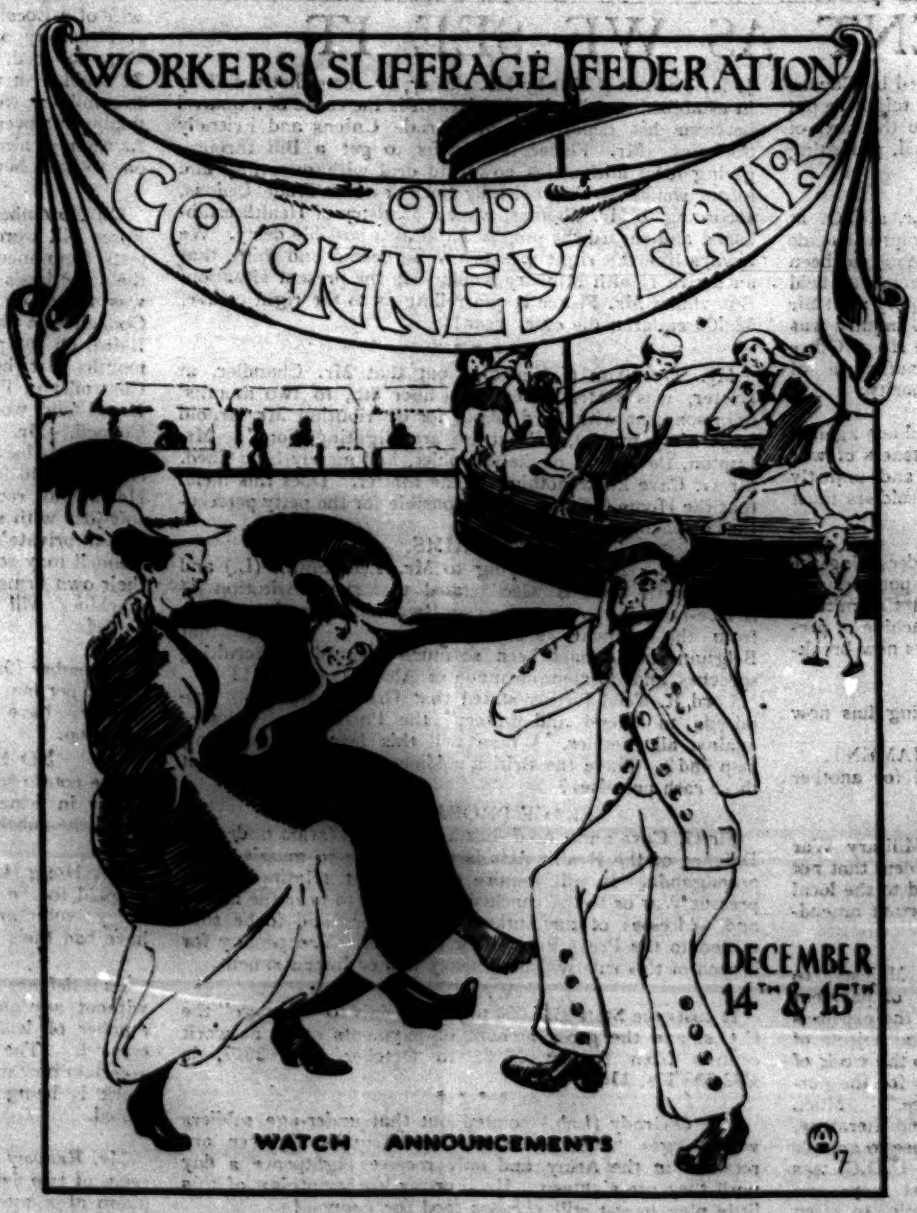

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